

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 208502

20

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:MAGMICHAUD:RLW

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R 202309Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

S E C R E T STATE 208502

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS

SUBJECT: CONDUCT OF AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY

REF: CANBERRA 6150

1. DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT PM WHITLAM WILL BE AWAY FROM AUSTRALIA FOR EXTENDED PERIOD DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISITS TO US, CANADA AND FIJI; AND THAT DEPUTY PM CAIRNS WILL BE ACTING PRIME MINISTER SIGNIFICANTLY LONGER THAN HE HAS BEEN THUS FAR.

2. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS: A) WHETHER CAIRNS WILL CONTINUE IMMERSED IN ECONOMIC ISSUES TO EXCLUSION OF IMPORTANT INVOLVEMENT IN FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AFFECTING US INTERESTS, B) LIKELY EFFECT ON CONDUCT OF AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY OF WHITLAM'S EXTENDED ABSENCE, C) WHETHER CAIRNS AS ACTING PM HAS PLAYED ROLE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF BARNARD IN PAST. KISSINGER

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
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To: CANBERRA
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